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Senate

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 1868

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there are now 4 minutes equally divided on the motion to table the Lautenberg amendment.

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I offer this amendment to correct the situation that came about as a result of Vice President CHENEY's statement on "Meet the Press" a couple of weeks ago. I wish to quickly respond to some things that were said about my amendment and the Vice President's links to Halliburton.

First, Halliburton absolutely had a no-bid contract with the Army Corps for oil-related services in Iraq, and it has billed American taxpayers \$1.4 billion so far. No other company was given the opportunity to bid. That contract occasioned a unanimous vote, led by the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, that we would not allow that kind of contract to appear again. It is stated on the record by Senator WARNER from Virginia.

Halliburton has other contracts that were bid, but the massive oil services contract was not.

Second, I appreciated the reading of the Vice President's comments on "Meet the Press" because even CRS agreed that deferred compensation and stock options held by the Vice President are, in fact, financial interests in Halliburton.

Third, the other member of the President's Cabinet who came into service after serving as CEO, John Snow, took his deferred compensation in a lump sum and got rid of his stock options immediately. That is the right thing to do when you are at the top of the executive branch with the direct ability to affect billions of dollars in contracts.

I urge my colleagues to attach some ethical guidelines to the Iraq recon-

struction funds. I urge my colleagues to think it through and send a picture out to the American public that says: No, no one is on the inside enough that they can influence what happened and profit from a position that takes us through the reconstruction of Iraq after the war.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired. Who speaks in opposition?

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, in 2 minutes it is hard to respond the way the Vice President deserves to be defended. I tell every Member this: I am preparing a memo on the statement on "Meet the Press" with the Vice President, his relationship with Halliburton, his financial disclosure form, what he did in 1998, what he did in 2000, and what he did in 2002.

Vote however you like. I am going to join sides with most of my Democratic friends in a minute and oppose the Vice President and the President on something very important to them. This amendment is political slander. This amendment has as its basis untruth and is factually incorrect. In 1998, the Vice President chose a deferred compensation package that was irrevocable. He couldn't change his mind. He insured that package with a private insurance policy because the Office of Government Ethics told him that is what everybody does, and he was exempt from going to the Office of Government Ethics.

I will ask unanimous consent to introduce the Vice President's financial disclosure form. He went above and beyond the call of duty. He has no financial interest in Halliburton. You are trying to accuse him of being a liar. Your facts are wrong. This is manipulation. This is politics at its worse. Please, look at what you are doing before you vote here. The Vice President doesn't deserve this, and I am going to send you a memo with what I believe to be the true facts, and we are going to get to the bottom of this.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, as a member of the Senate Ethics Committee, I take seriously any action which raises questions about the integrity of the Federal Government. I believe firmly that the Federal contracting process in Iraq and elsewhere should be transparent and accountable to ensure Federal tax dollars are spent appropriately. Like many of my constituents, I question the circumstances under which Halliburton was awarded a contract in Iraq in a process that did not include soliciting competitive bids from other companies. I believe all aspects of that transaction should be carefully examined and open to public inspection.

While I sympathize with the proponents of the Lautenberg amendment, I do not believe a punitive, absolute statutory prohibition is the correct approach under the circumstances. Instead, I support efforts to ensure Federal contracts in Iraq are awarded through a process that is subject to rigorous Congressional oversight and that applies strict penalties for any unethical or illegal conduct that is uncovered. Additionally, I believe contracts should be awarded through full and fair competition.

As a U.S. Senator, I am ethically bound to conduct my official duties in a manner that avoids even the appearance of impropriety. I fully intend to honor that commitment to my country and my constituents. I also intend to hold the Bush administration to the same standard.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this is a very curious amendment. It tries to take a stealth approach to the matter, but in fact, its real purpose is pretty obvious. I don't think anyone will be fooled by it because we all know who it is directed against.

Back in my home State of Wyoming, a lot of people who know DICK CHENEY will be surprised to see the Senate using its valuable time in what some might see as a witch hunt against the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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